Lovely Strange Dark

NAMIDA NO TANTANMEN
"TEARY TANTAN NOODLES"
BY TAKAHASHI TSUTOMU
ONESHOT

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lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com
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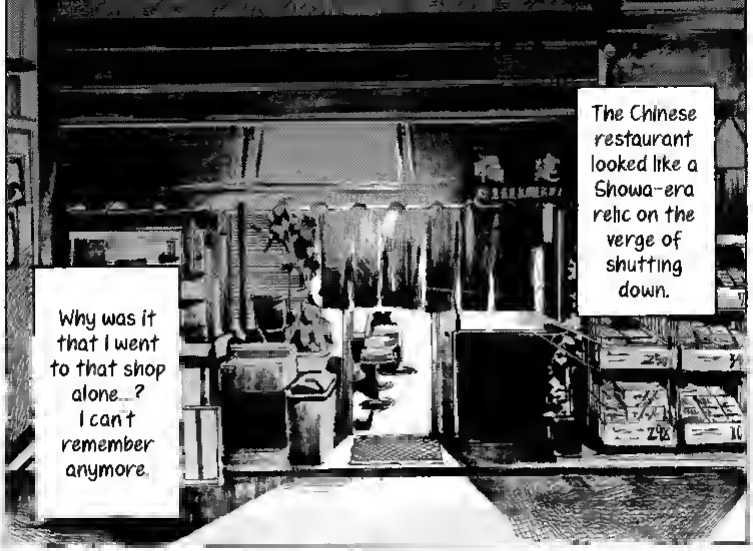
NAMIDANOTANTANMEN
"Teary Tantan Noodles"
An all-out contest!
A potent one-shot!
So satisfying you'll never be able to forget it.
TSUTOMU TAKAHASHI
高橋ツトム
『爆音列島』全18巻
『地雷震ディアブロ』全3巻
『新装版 地雷震』全10巻
ともに絶賛発売中!!

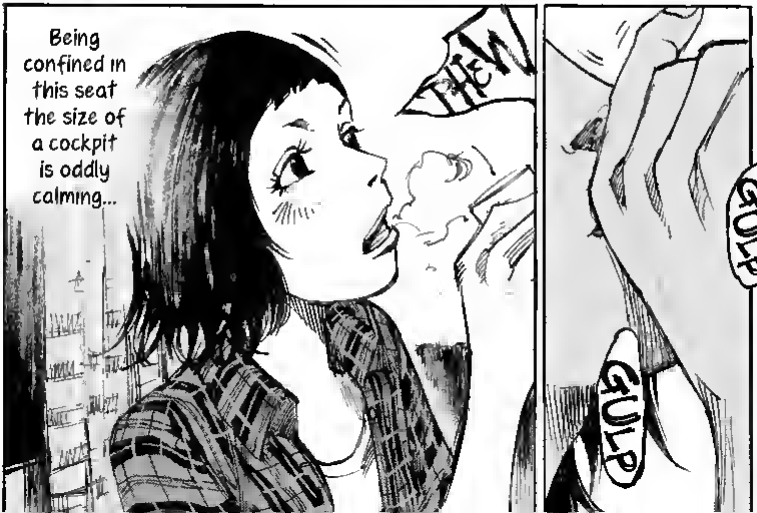

The Chinese restaurant looked like a Showa-era relic on the verge of shutting down.
Why was it that I went to that shop alone...? I can't remember anymore.

2

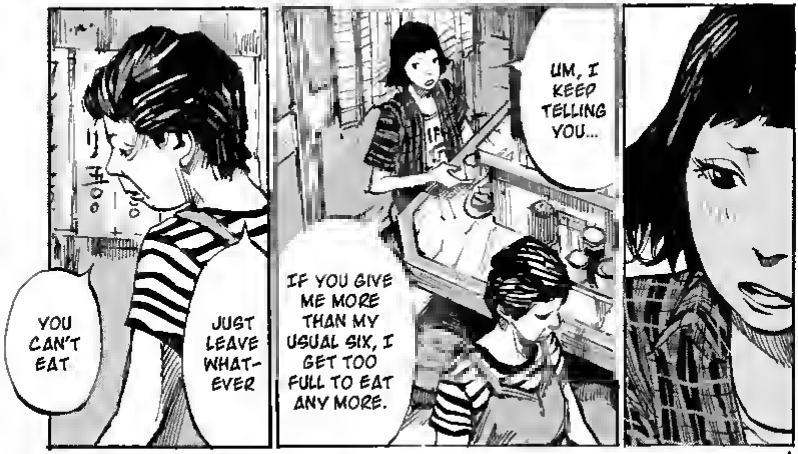
I've been eating there for a year now already.

GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

3


Being confined in this seat the size of a cockpit is oddly calming...
PHEW
GULP
GULP

HERE, YOUR POT-STICKERS.


UM, I KEEP TELLING YOU...
IF YOU GIVE ME MORE THAN MY USUAL SIX, I GET TOO FULL TO EAT ANY MORE.
JUST LEAVE WHAT-EVER
YOU CAN'T EAT

.....
BUT I DON'T REALLY FEEL RIGHT DOING THAT.

The wife here always seems weighed down.
When she does speak, it's always like, "When should I close the shop?"
Maybe that ramen shop holds a lot of bad memories for her...?
It seems that before she came here, she had a ramen shop some-where else.
5
There's not a single noodle dish among the Chinese food offered here
It's ridiculous. There's soup, but no noodles.

But what's even more ridiculous is that the kitchen here
is blocked off with wood, so you can't see in... this whole time, I've never seen her husband, who does the cooking.
CLANG
I can only hear the sounds of the pans moving about.
Not once this whole year.
CLANG
The food this faceless man puts out is delicious,
so I gave it some thought.

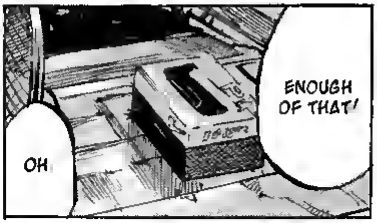
Back when he worked at the ramen shop, a fire broke out and he got scarred...
He hides because he doesn't want people to see him. But since he has to eat, he works here like this... that's what I think.
SO... DERMO GIRL,
WE'RE GOING TO CLOSE.

CLOSE?
IT'S ONLY TEN.
I'M ALL TIRED OUT ALREADY.

HEY, SIR
WE'RE CLOSING. YOU NEED TO WAKE UP
AND MY HUSBAND ISN'T DOING WELL.
UHH...
WHAT?
YOU'RE KICKING ME OUT BEFORE I'M DONE?
8
HEY, LITTLE LADY.
COME KEEP ME COMPANY. I'LL BUY YOU A DRINK.
PLEASE CALL IT A DAY AND LET ME CLOSE.

COME OVER HERE
HEY,

Is he for real...?
HUH?


ENOUGH OF THAT!
OH

DON'T MAKE A PASS AT MY GIRL.

T/N: PACHINKO = PINBALL

1
ピピピン
ピピピン
ピピピン

DING
WHIRR
PEEW PEEW
E—
EXCUSE ME, SIR.

DON'T SNEER.
DING!
THINK THINK
YOU'RE THINKING OF HOW MUCH MONEY I'M LOSING

THIS PLACE PULLS IN A PROFIT
.....
YOU CAN AT LEAST PROVIDE THIS LITTLE SERVICE.
PEEW
DING
THINK

RING
RING
What trash...
GRIP
GRIP
RING
RING

HNNNN
454
Still, I'm not good enough that I can ignore it and smile.
I don't want to grow used to this kind of thing, but I am...

Some garlicky food.
Gah, I want a beer.
WHIRRR
THUD
CLING
Rattle
CLING
THINK
Saitou Kaede

FUTSU
福
KEN
建

AND SOME TOFU.
I'LL TAKE SIX POT-STICK-ERS.
I'LL GRAB MYSELF A BEER.
SURE
LET'S STAY
COME ON IN.
OH,

CLANG
CLANG
Clang

WE'RE GOING TO CLOSE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR.
THIS YEAR...

T/N: TANTAN NOODLES ARE LIKE SPICY RAMEN NOODLES WITH TOPPINGS

YOU MUST THINK IT'S STRANGE
FOR HIM TO HIDE BACK THERE.
HUH...
REALLY ...?
WELL...
YEAH...
BUT WHY
IS HE HIDING .?
IT'S THE ALCOHOL.
WHEN CUSTOMERS EGG HIM ON, HE CAN'T REFUSE A DRINK. THAT'S HOW WE LOST THE OLD SHOP

REALLY.
REALLY...

HE'S JUST SHY.
WHAT HE HEARS ABOUT YOU.
AND HE REALLY LIKES

Four more months ...
CHIRP—
CHIRP—
CHIRP—
The end of the year?

PACHINKO
YES..
CAN I HAVE A MINUTE?
SAITOU KAEDE..
WELL...
WE'VE RECEIVED A LOT OF COMPLAINTS FROM THE GUESTS.
TRUTH IS, THIS IS KIND OF HARD FOR ME TO SAY.
19
NO, WELL...
IT'S OBVIOUS, BUT THIS PLACE IS FOR ENTERTAIN-MENT, SO EVERYONE'S ENJOYING THEMSELVES.
YOU DON'T PRETTY YOURSELF UP, AND YOU SCOWL A LOT.
YOU DON'T SMILE ENOUGH.
THEY CALLED YOU "SCARY".

SOMETHING TO CRY OVER
LOOK, THIS ISN'T
IT'S BASIC.
20
A GOOD FIT FOR THIS JOB, ARE YOU?
YOU AREN'T
And just how many people in this world are a good fit for their job?
Everyone just puts up with it and does their work...

21

WHAT'S THAT, MA'AM?
I'VE BEEN COMING HERE FOR 18 YEARS, BUT YOU HAVEN'T SERVED ME THAT ONCE.
REALLY? THAT'S A SHAME.
I SAID SO, DIDN'T I?
BUT IT'S STILL AUGUST. I THOUGHT I'D HAVE IT AT THE END OF THE YEAR
WELL, WE GOT OUR HANDS ON SOME GOOD NOODLES.

I eat this, and then what...?
But
it's got an amazing aura.

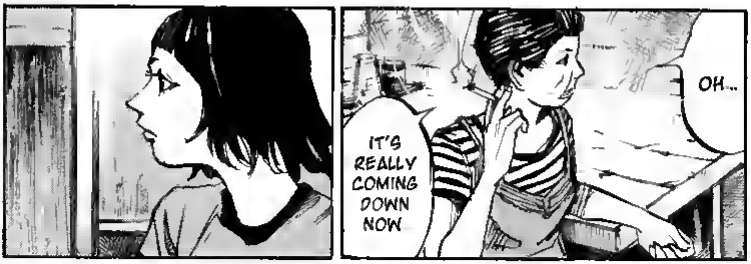
SLURP

It hurts.
Hot!

AAH
AAH
SLURP
AAH

CHNG
CHNG

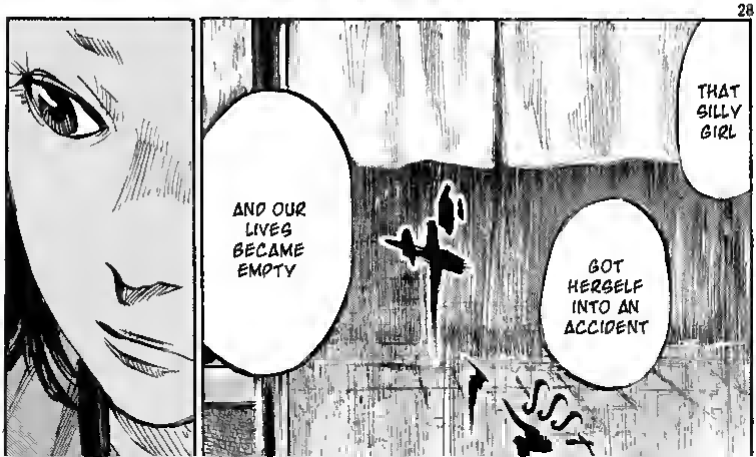
That was so good.


IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN NOW
OH...

HOW WAS IT?

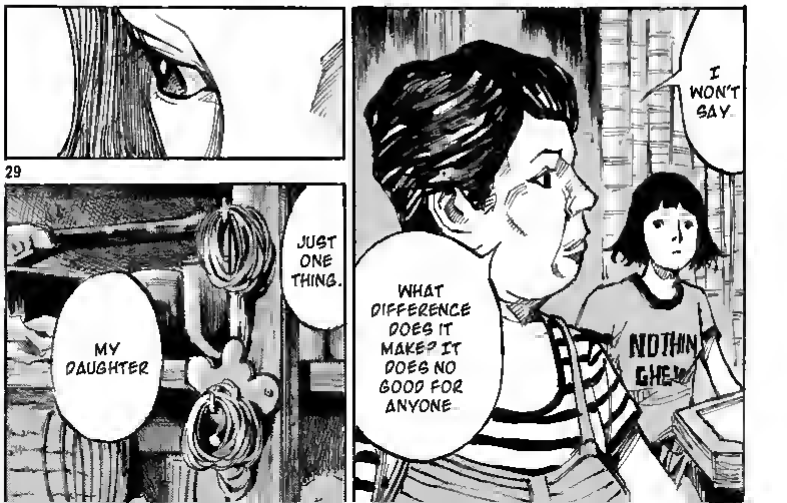
THIN
YEAH, THAT'S WORTH GOOD MONEY.
I EXPECTED AS MUCH.
OH?
GOOD TO HEAR.
HEY,
YOU TWO HAVE A CHILD, DON'T YOU?
YOU
CALLED ME YOUR "GIRL" BEFORE...
WHY WOULD YOU ASK THAT?

WE DID
HAVE A DAUGHTER
BUT SHE DIED WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE


THAT SILLY GIRL
AND OUR LIVES BECAME EMPTY
GOT HERSELF INTO AN ACCIDENT

UM,
I'M SORRY...
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLO-GIZE FOR
I'M THE ONE WHO WENT ON AND ON

YOUR DAUGH-TER
KIDIN
WHAT WAS HER NAME?


I WON'T SAY.
NOTHIN
GHE
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? IT DOES NO GOOD FOR ANYONE
JUST ONE THING.
MY DAUGHTER

SHE LOVED
TO SIT IN THAT SEAT AND EAT TANTAN NOODLES.

DRIP
DRIP
IT'S DIED DOWN.
IT'S LATE, YOU SHOULD GO...

THE FIRST TIME YOU THANKED ME

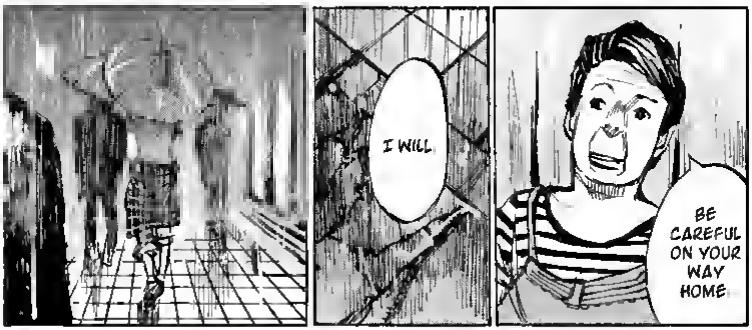
THANKS FOR THE MEAL
SEE YA

HUH?

THAT'S A FIRST.
OH,

I'D LOVE TO SEE MY PARENTS' FACES
TALK ABOUT A BAD UP-BRINGING
BEEN COMING HERE THIS LONG AND NEVER SAID THANKS
I'VE

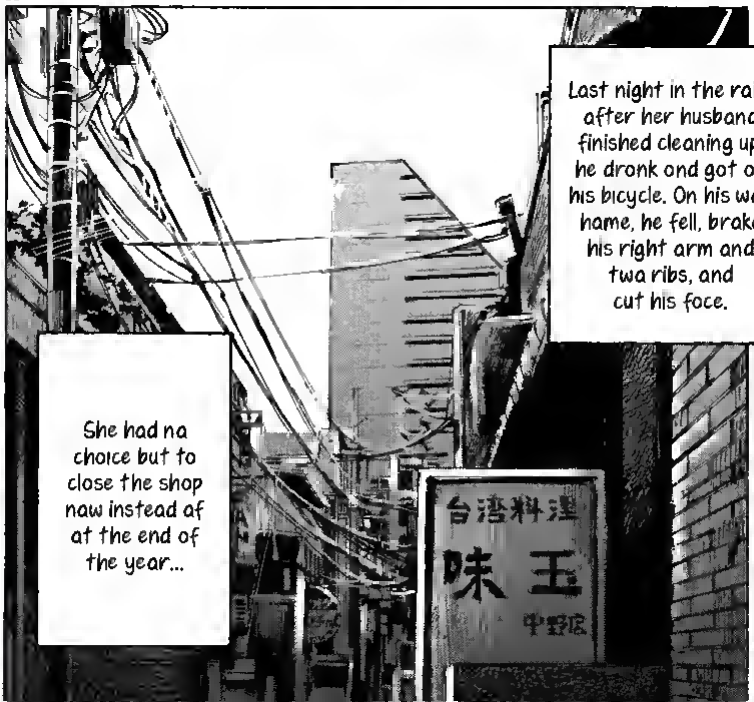
I'M SORRY.
I REALLY AM TERRIBLE.
I CAN'T EVEN DO THAT.


I WILL.
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME.

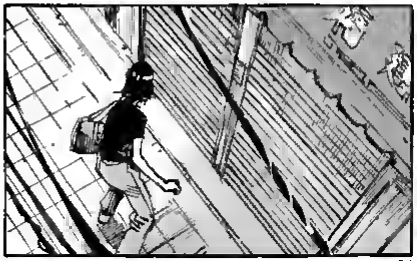
福建

She called me the next afternaan.

Futsuken


Last night in the rain, after her husband finished cleaning up, he dronk ond got on his bicycle. On his way hame, he fell, brake his right arm and twa ribs, and cut his foce.
She had na choice but to close the shop naw instead af at the end of the year...
台湾料理
味玉
中野店

Losing it all over again because of alcohol.
Stupid old man.



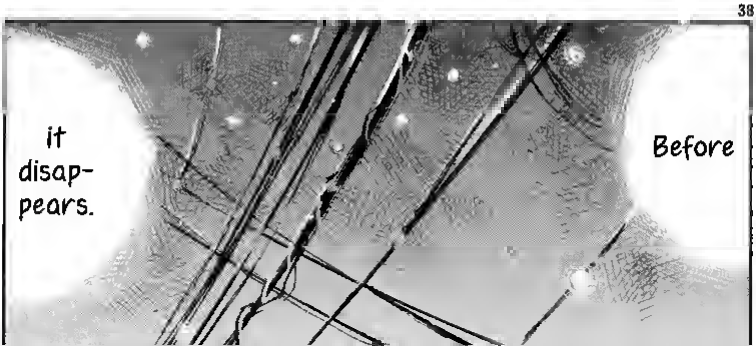
If I can't get pot-stickers and beer here...
We had to close the shop for personal reasons. Thank you for your patronage over the years.
Futsuken
For real?

I'm all alone again.
アコエ
三井住友銀行
アイフレ

Futsuken's phone number went dead,
and a trendy Korean restaurant opened up in its spot.

So I need to pay attention.
TING!
You can lose what's important to you in an instant.

WHRRRR
right now.
I have to catch it
TING!


it disap-pears.
Before

Xmas Fair
CHICKEN PACK, HALF OFF!
HUH? WHAT NOW? I'LL HEAD OVER THERE.
IT'S FINE, I'M LEAVING.
Xmas
OH.. FOR ME, HUH...
OK.
POT-STICKERS AND BEER WOULD BE NICE.
THEN I'LL MAKE US A RESER-VATION. WHAT KIND OF FOOD?
WHO CARES? THEY'RE THE BEST.
YOU SURE..? IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE AND YOU'RE ACTING LIKE AN OLD MAN.
FINE THEN, I'LL FIND US A PLACE.
OK.
Xmas
Merry Christmas

Maybe I'll be able to meet the shopkeeper face to face one day. Until then, I'll keep moving forward.

NAMIDA NO TANTANMEN

End